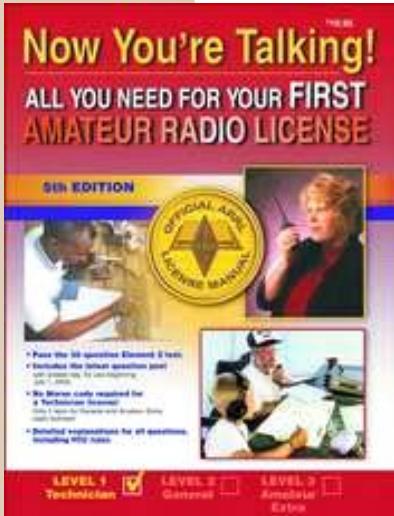


Spark Gap

Volume 22, Issue 3, March 2005



*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*

MARC

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P.O. Box 835
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Meridian, Greenwood, IN, classes begin March 19th, 2005.

Classes are free. All students must have a copy of the book, "Now You're Talking" available from the ARRL or through Amazon.com website. Advance orders for the textbooks (with a \$5 discount) can also be made by calling the class instructor at 889-1931 or via e-mail at hamclass@midstatehams.org

This class is designed to teach interested people all the material needed to pass the technician class amateur radio exam. Morse code in **NO LONGER REQUIRED**. The entire class consists of eight weekly sessions with a final session reserved for taking the license exam.

Join us on the following Saturdays: March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, and May 14th. On Saturday May 21st our Volunteer Examiner Coordinators will be at the Library to administer the test to those who feel ready to do so. MARC members will be in attendance at each class to meet and answer questions concerning Amateur Radio and our

Folks:

MARC is proud to announce that it is time for our annual technician class. Held on eight (8) consecutive Saturdays at the Greenwood Public Library, 310 S.

organization. Now is the perfect time to join the Amateur Radio community! See you at class.

73, KB9SKI ■

Weather Spotter Class

Weather Spotter classes are being scheduled with the first class to convene on March 4th in Bloomington, Indiana. Our meeting location, 1111 Hospital Road, in Franklin will have a class on March 30th beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you can't make the class or have Amateur radio friends elsewhere who wish to attend a class, a complete listing of all currently scheduled classes may be found at <http://www.w9nws.org/training.htm>.

**"Join us on
March 19th!"**

Weather Spotter classes coincide with Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 6 through March 12. The Statewide Tornado drills are Wednesday, March 9 between 10 am and 10:30 am and between 7 pm and 7:30 pm. Recently trained spotters can send storm reports via Amateur Radio Nets as part of the SKYWARN system or via the eSpotter Severe Weather Report located on the National Weather Service website at www.crh.noaa.gov/ind. ■

Reminder: Just a reminder that Mike Palmer, N9FEB, is still looking for volunteers to work the 500 Mini Marathon and the 500 Festival Parade. To volunteer or for more information, contact Mike at www.IndyHams.org or give him a call at 317.849.3602. ■

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 Introduced

...from the ARRL Bulletin 7, March 2005

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spec-

trum Protection Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current

measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the legislation "is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor. Efforts now will focus on attracting

additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site.



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Spark Gap

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!

More info at

www.ARRL.org

New MARC Member

It is with great pleasure we announce a new member of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club.

K9DY, Steve Carmean

Welcome!

FCC Morse, restructuring proposals could be out by mid-year

...from the ARRL, March 2005

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC plans to tackle all 18 in a single proceeding.

On the code issue, petitions—and comments in response to them—run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.)

The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class. At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions.

While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-year, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM would initiate another round of public comments on what the FCC has proposed. An FCC Report and Order implementing any new rules is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then. ■

Amateur Radio Testing

Interested in getting your amateur radio license? The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings.

This is the perfect opportunity for you or someone you know to get that amateur license, or upgrade to a higher-class license. Our Volunteer Examiner team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any test necessary. Study hard, and then come to the meeting. Our VE Team is eager to serve. ■

VEC News

January 2005

Joseph Welsh, KC9GZJ, Upgrade to General
Larry Harrison, N9CZQ, Upgrade to General

February 2005

Joseph W. Black, KC9HDH, Technician

Congratulations!

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newslin!

Are you a member of ARRL?

If so, and if your dues for ARRL are also due, our club treasurer can help you renew your membership. MARC will receive money from ARRL for any MARC member renewing their ARRL membership. If you are not a member of ARRL you can also start your membership through the club and MARC will receive money from ARRL for you joining.

2005 Schedule of Events

MARCH

3 Thursday Night Supper Club
Fazoli's; SR 135 north of Main Street across from Meijers in Greenwood

5 Mini-Marathon Pre-Race
Indianapolis; <http://www.indyhams.org/N9FEB@comcast.net>

10 Thursday Night Supper Club
King Buffet, 2239 N. Morton (US 31) Franklin, IN

12 2005 WVARA Tailgate Party
Northside Bingo Hall, Terre Haute, IN; www.w9uuu.org/tailgate.html

17 Thursday Night Supper Club
Denny's, I-65 South and Main, Greenwood, IN

19 MARC Meeting
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

19 Technician Class
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN

24 Thursday Night Supper Club
Aisa Buffet Restaurant, US 31 South, 11 Declaration Drive, across from Kroger, Greenwood, IN

26 Michigan City Hamfest
Michigan City Diamond Cove, Michigan City, IN; www.w9ly.org

26 Technician Class
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN

30 National Weather Service Weather Spotter Class
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

31 Thursday Night Supper Club
MCL Cafeteria, 3630 South East Street, Indianapolis, IN

April

2 Technician Class
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN

7 Thursday Night Supper Club
Golden Corral, US 135 South, Greenwood, IN

9 Technician Class
Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, IN

14 Thursday Night Supper Club
El Nino Mexican, 2797 North Morton Street (US 31), Franklin, IN



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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Thursday Night Supper Club

The MARC Thursday Group is an informal group of amateur radio enthusiasts who meet almost every Thursday Night at various restaurants around the Johnson County and Southern Marion County areas. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet fellow amateur radio operators in an informal setting. The location of the restaurant varies weekly, so they may be near you soon! The group meets each week at 6:00 PM. See you there!